

April 16th, 2021

Will Seuffert
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 Seventh Place, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Re: In the Matter of the Minnesota Public Utilities Information Request sent to all Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Grant Winners

Dear Mr. Seuffert:

Attached please find Farmers Mutual Telephone Company's response to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission information request filed in Docket No. P522/AM-21-77.

Please contact the undersigned if further information is needed at 651-621-8306.

Sincerely,

/s/ **Mary T. Buley**

Mary T. Buley
Consultant for Farmers Mutual Telephone Company

Additional Information Requested from ETC Petitioners

ETC Applicant Name: Farmers Mutual Telephone Company		
MPUC Docket Number: P522/AM-21-77		
	Yes (Certify)/No	Additional Information (Attach additional pages as necessary)
1. Please certify the applicant's commitment to meeting the service and performance quality requirements applicable to its support type. See 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(1).	Yes	
2. Will the applicant offer standalone voice telephony service? See 47 CFR 54.101(b). Applicants holding an ETC designation in MN should describe, in sufficient detail to understand the offering, their existing voice telephony service offered to customers, including tariff sheets and contracts, proof of making offerings for this service to consumers in their existing census blocks covered by their present ETC designation, and the number of customers using the applicant's offered voice telephony service in both total numbers and as a percent of customers served in the state. Indicate whether the offering for the RDOF census blocks covered by this application will be the same standalone service and if not, describe how it will differ. See 47 CFR 54.101(b).	Yes	<p>The same standalone voice telephony service will be offered in the RDOF census blocks.</p> <p>Local Phone service includes calling features of Telemarketer Screening, Caller ID, Call Waiting, Call Forwarding, 8# Speed Dial, 3 way calling and Premium Voice Mail.</p> <p>Farmers ILEC: Total Possible Customers: 1,178 Customers as of April: 792 Percentage: 67.232%</p> <p>Farmers CLEC: Total Possible Customers: 2,057 Customers as of April: 951 Percentage: 46.232%</p> <p>See attachments</p>

<p>3.If so, will the applicant do so through its own facilities, meaning “any physical components of the telecommunications network that are used in the transmission or routing of the services designated for support” or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier’s services (including the services offered by another eligible telecommunications carrier)? See 47 CFR 54.201(d)(1).</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Farmers Mutual Telephone Company is going to use its own facilities to provide service.</p>
<p>4.For the voice telephony service, identify the customer point of contact (name, address, contact information), and confirm this contact person is legally authorized to represent the applicant in communications with customers.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>MacKenzie Gilbertson Farmers Mutual Telephone Company 301 2nd Street South Bellingham, MN 56212 320-568-2622 mackenzie.gilbertson@aciracoop.net</p>
<p>5.Does the voice telephony service have "access to the emergency services provided by local government or other public safety organizations, such as 911 and enhanced 911, to the extent the local government in an eligible carrier's service area has implemented 911 or enhanced 911 systems"? See 47 CFR § 54.101(a).</p>	<p>Yes</p>	
<p>6. Please describe how the applicant will remain functional in emergency situations, namely, what is “its ability to remain functional in emergency situations, including a demonstration that it has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations.” 47 CFR § 54.202(a)(2)?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Our buildings have DC battery backup designed for 8 hours of backup. In addition to that, we utilize standby generators which automatically turn on if commercial power is lost. Our core networks (connecting offices) are designed in a redundant route configuration, where if facilities get damaged on one spot, the gear will automatically re-route traffic around the area with the problem. Our core network is currently at 30% capacity, with plenty of unused bandwidth to handle a surge in traffic.</p>
<p>7.Please describe the extent to which the offered voice telephony services will be offered at “rates that are equal or lower to the Commission’s reasonable comparability benchmarks for fixed wireline services offered in urban areas.” 47 CFR 54.804(b)(2)(iii).</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Rates offered will be equal or lower to the Commission's reasonable comparability benchmarks for fixed wireline services offered in urban areas</p>
<p>8.Will the applicant satisfy additional requirements applicable to all high- cost ETCs, such as Lifeline obligations? 47 CFR § 54.405</p>	<p>Yes</p>	

<p>9.If so, will the applicant commit to e-file documentation evidencing the offering of Lifeline service in the required census blocks as required by 47 CFR § 54.405(b).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Current Lifeline providers should provide evidence of prior and current communications, including advertisements and website communications as described in 47 CFR § 54.405(c) for census blocks for which it currently receives support and the number of Lifeline customers being served. b. Future Lifeline providers should provide planned communications as described in 47 CFR §54.405(c). 	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Farmers Website: https://farmerstel.net/lifeline-tap-discounts/ See attachments</p>
<p>10.If the answer to question 3 above is through an affiliate or by offering a managed voice solution (including VoIP) through resale of another carrier’s services, identify the other carrier, describe the legal relationship between the applicant and the other carrier, and describe how the other carrier will comply with the requirements listed above.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>11.Will the applicant commit to notifying the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, Minnesota Department of Commerce and the Minnesota Office of the Attorney General if it has failed to meet its milestones for the identified census blocks under the FCC RDOF grant obligations? 47 CFR 54.320(d).</p>	<p>Yes</p>	

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

The rates for Local Exchange Service are subject to the conditions set forth herein and the General Regulations governing provision of service. The General Regulations are set forth in Section 2 of this tariff book.

Local Exchange Service

- A. The Local Exchange Service Rates in this section are for service only and do not include any terminal equipment beyond the point of demarcation.
- B. The rates applicable to Local Exchange Service are composed of a Line Access Rate component plus (where applicable) an Extended Area Service component.
- C. Service Upgrades
 - 1) At the option of the Company, services will be upgraded to business individual line and residence individual line as facilities for the provision of such services permit.
 - 2) Upgrading of business and residence services may be accomplished on a line by line basis at the option of the Company.
 - 3) As an exchange is upgraded, as set forth in 1) above, the rates shown on the appropriate rate schedule will be applied.
- D. Extended Area Service
 - 1) Establishment and discontinuance of EAS will be contingent upon Commission authorization.
 - 2) Extended Area Service rate component.
 - a) EAS is a premium-type service offering made by the Company to certain exchanges, under specific conditions.
 - b) The Extended Area Service rate component, where applicable, is included in the Local Exchange Service Rate.
- E. Taxes
 - 1) Applicable taxes levied by state, county and local taxing authorities are in addition to the rates set forth in this tariff. (See also General Regulations, Section 2).

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

Class of Service	<u>Rates</u>	Monthly Rates	
Exchange		Madison Boyd Canby Dawson Montevideo Ortonville	(N)
BUSINESS:			
One Party		\$ 22.50	(T)
Key System Line - Access		22.50	
Basic Coin Telephone Service		22.50	
RESIDENCE:			
One Party - Access		22.50	(T)

All rates are billed in advance. Payment for service is due when the statement is rendered.

Vacation rate service is available for customers requiring less than 12 months of service per year. The rate for vacation service is determined in accordance with section 5, page 31 of this tariff book.

SCHOOL CLASS ROOM SERVICE: *	Monthly Rate
One Party - Access	\$ 22.50

* School classroom service is one party flat rate local exchange access line service offered to public schools that conduct classes within the range of kindergarten through 12th grade pursuant to Minnesota Statute Section 237.065. This additional service is available to ensure access to telephone service from each classroom and other areas within the school, as determined by the school board. Existing service provided to all areas of the school prior to the effective date of this tariff will be billed at the current rates. Upon approval by the school board, this service must be installed in all remaining classrooms within the school and other areas within the school, as determined by the school board, within the time period specified by the company. This service is not available in areas within the school where telephone service is used for business administrative purposes of the schools.

LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

Extended Area Service (EAS)

<u>Exchange</u>	<u>EAS to Exchange</u>	
Boyd	Cerro Gordo	(T)
Boyd	Dawson	(T)
Canby	Porter	(N)
Canby	St Leo	(N)
Dawson	Boyd	(T)
Dawson	Cerro Gordo	
Dawson	Madison	
Madison	Dawson	
Montevideo	Bid Bend City	
Montevideo	Maynard	
Montevideo	Milan	
Ortonville	Clinton	
Ortonville	Odessa	

INTEGRATED HOME WI-FI

Our Integrated Home Wi-Fi provides you with fiber fast access to the Internet on all your Wi-Fi capable devices such as smart phones, tablets, gaming systems, and laptops.

As the leading Internet provider in the area with the largest all-fiber optic network, our cooperative is providing Internet service at lightning-fast speeds.

No need to purchase your own wireless router! When you subscribe to the Happy Home or Connected Home option, we will provide you with the initial router at no extra cost.

Wi-Fi not reaching all areas of your home? No problem - we can add a Wi-Fi extender for just \$6.95 per month for the first extender and \$4.95 per month for any additional. Wired Extenders may be needed in some locations at \$9.95 per month for the first and \$6.95 per month for any additional.

NEED MORE SPEED?

Additional Speeds Available:
\$20/month per 100M
Increment up to 1 GIG!

CONNECTED HOME 50 Mbps Internet

INTERNET ONLY

- ✓ 50M/50M Internet
- ✓ Integrated Home Wi-Fi

\$74.95 per month
No Taxes or Surcharges on Internet Only

PHONE + INTERNET

- ✓ 50M/50M Internet
- ✓ Integrated Home Wi-Fi
- ✓ Local Phone
- ✓ Calling Features**

\$69.95 per month*
*Taxes & Surcharges Apply to Phone Service

HAPPY HOME 300 Mbps Internet

INTERNET ONLY

- ✓ 300M/300M Internet
- ✓ Integrated Home Wi-Fi

\$84.95 per month*
No Taxes or Surcharges on Internet Only

PHONE + INTERNET

- ✓ 300M/300M Internet
- ✓ Integrated Home Wi-Fi
- ✓ Local Phone
- ✓ Calling Features**

\$79.95 per month*
*Taxes & Surcharges Apply to Phone Service

ADDITIONAL MONTHLY SERVICE OPTIONS:

Local Phone Only....\$22.50*

Includes Calling Features**
*Taxes & Surcharges Apply to Phone Service

SOLUTIONS LONG DISTANCE:

10¢ = per minute
\$26.95 = 350 Minutes
\$36.95 = Unlimited***

CALLING FEATURES:

**Included with Local Phone

Telemarketer Screening, Caller ID,
Call Waiting, Call Forwarding,
8# Speed Dial, 3-Way Calling
& Premium Voice Mail.

* Pricing is for residential subscribers only. Prices and Packages subject to change. Prices do NOT include taxes, surcharges, and activation fees, if applicable. Customer owned wiring in some buildings may limit speed. Happy Home data usage exceeding 2 Terabytes per month will be assessed a fee of \$10.00 for each 100 gigabytes over 2 Terabytes. Connected Home data usage exceeding 1 Terabyte per month will be assessed a fee of \$10.00 for each 100 gigabytes over 1 Terabyte. Ex) 1-100 gigabytes over would equal \$10. Data usage, also known as bandwidth usage, is the total amount of data, photos, videos and other files that are sent, received, downloaded and uploaded each month.

*** Solutions Unlimited Long Distance plan is designed for one (1) residential phone line. The plan covers direct-dialed local and nationwide voice calls within the United States - including Alaska and Hawaii. The plan does not include commercial use, 900 calls, 800 services, International Calls, Directory Assistance, Operator Assistance, multi-line conference calls, data (including dial-up internet connections), chat lines, multi-housing units or any other special Operator Handled calls. Commercial facsimile, auto-redialing, resale and telemarketing are also strictly prohibited. Residential customer voice usage is classified as using 3000 minutes or less per month of long distance calling. Usage may be monitored and customer may be required to show compliance. Farmers Mutual Telephone Company reserves the right to immediately suspend, restrict, bill excessive usage charges or cancel your service without prior notice if your usage is not consistent with typical residential customer usage. Additional regulatory charges and taxes may apply. Regulations and rates are subject to change. Farmers Mutual Telephone Company reserves the right to discontinue the plan at its sole discretion with due notice to the customer. Customer must retain all elements of bundle to qualify for package pricing.

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) SS.
 COUNTY OF LAC QUI PARLE)

Dave Hickey, being first duly sworn, on oath states as follows:

1. I am the publisher of the newspaper known as the Dawson Sentinel. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this Affidavit, which is made pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §331A.07.

2. The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements to constitute a qualified newspaper under Minnesota law, including those requirements found in Minnesota Statutes §331A.02.

3. The dates of the month and the year and day of the week upon which the public notice attached/copied below was published in the newspaper are as follows: The printed **Farmer Mutual Telephone Company Lifeline Telephone and Internet Assistance** which is attached was cut from the columns of said newspaper, and was printed and published once each week, for one successive week; it was published on Wednesday, the 24th day of February, 2021; and printed below is a copy of the lower case alphabet from A to Z, both inclusive, which is hereby acknowledged as being the size and kind of type used in the composition and publication of the notice: *abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

4. The publisher's lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space, as determined pursuant to § 331A.06, is as follows:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| (1) Lowest classified rate paid commercial users
for comparable space | 9 point - \$8.50/inch, 1.00/line |
| (2) Maximum rate allowed by law for the above
matter | 8 point - \$8.50/inch, 1.00/line |
| (3) Rate actually charged for the above matter | 8 point - \$8.40/inch, 1.00/line |

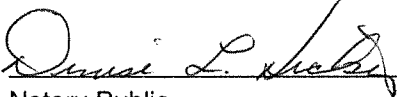
5. Mortgage Foreclosure Notices. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §580.033 relating to the publication of mortgage foreclosure notices: The newspaper's known office of issue is located in Lac qui Parle County. The newspaper complies with the conditions described in §580.033, subd. 1, clause (1) or (2). If the newspaper's known office of issue is located in a county adjoining the county where the mortgaged premises or some part of the mortgaged premises described in the notice are located, a substantial portion of the newspaper's circulation is in the latter county.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAITH NOT.

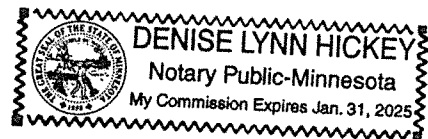


 [Signature]

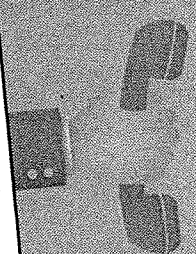
Subscribed and sworn to before me on
 this 23rd day of Feb, 2021.



 Notary Public



Do You Qualify for Telephone/Internet Assistance?



LIFELINE

www.LifelineSupport.org

If your income level falls below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or if you are currently receiving benefits under one or more of the following programs: Medicaid/ Medical Assistance, SNAP, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing assistance or the Veteran's Pension or Survivor's Pension Benefit, you may be eligible for payment assistance on your phone and/or Internet service.



Contact Farmers Mutual to help answer any questions or determine if you qualify for assistance.
320-568-2105 • www.farmerstel.net